

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 NIC-01 AEC-05 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-04 FEAE-00 FPC-01

H-01 INR-05 INT-05 L-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03

RSC-01 SAM-01 SCI-02 SP-02 SS-20 STR-01 TRSE-00

FRB-01 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 SAJ-01 IO-04 CU-02 NEA-06

DRC-01 /108 W

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R 150909Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7634

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, RP, CH, UR

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT AND MRS. MARCOS PARTICIPATE IN CELEBRATING
PRC OIL DELIVERY

REF: MANILA 12232

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1. BEGIN SUMMARY: AT CEREMONIES IN BATAAN OCTOBER 14,

MARKING FIRST DELIVERY OF PRC CRUDE, PRESIDENT MARCOS STATED GOP PROCEEDING TOWARDS NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH PRC ALTHOUGH HE DECLINED "TO GO INTO DETAILS". MARCOS CLAIMED OIL DELIVERY MEANT "LESSENING OF THREATS FROM MANY SECTORS" INCLUDING SECESSIONIST MOVEMENT IN SOUTH AND SUBVERSIVE FORCES IN LUZON. AN EFFUSIVE MRS. MARCOS TERMED OIL SHIPMENT SYMBOL OF PROFOUND CHANGES WHICH HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN PHIL-PRC RELATIONS. PRESIDENT SEEMED MORE RESTRAINED IN HIS COMMENTS THAN HIS WIFE BUT BOTH AGREED ARRIVAL OF 125,000 BARRELS OF SHENGLI CRUDE "HISTORIC MOMENT" WHICH MARKS PHILIPPINES ADOPTION OF INDEPENDENT FOREIGN POLICY. END SUMMARY.

2. ON OCTOBER 15 PRESIDENT AND MRS. MARCOS PARTICIPATED IN CEREMONIES AT PETROFIL REFINERY IN LIMAY, BATAAN MARKING FIRST DELIVERY OF "CONTINUOUS OIL SUPPLY" PLEDGED BY PRC DURING MRS. MARCOS' RECENT VISIT. PRESIDENT SPOKE EXTEMPORANEOUSLY. PRESS REPORTS HE SAID IT WAS IN "HIGHEST INTEREST OF SECURITY" FOR GOP TO PROCEED TOWARDS NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH PRC ALTHOUGH HE ADDED SOMEWHAT CRYPTICALLY "THIS IS NOT THE TIME OR PLACE TO GO INTO DETAILS." PRESIDENT SAID PRC'S SHIPMENT OF OIL "MARKS EARNESTNESS OF CHINESE AND OF THEIR STATED POLICY OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION WITH PHILIPPINES." HE SAID IT WOULD BE "HIGHEST FORM OF INDISCRETION (SIC) AND AVOIDANCE OF DUTY "NOT TO TAKE PRC INTO CONSIDERATION IN MAKING ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL POLICY. GOP COULD NOT CLOSE ITS EYES TO 860 MILLION PEOPLE. PRESIDENT TERMED OIL DELIVERY "HISTORIC MOMENT THAT WILL BE WRITTEN IN THE PAGES OF THE HISTORY OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES" AND CLAIMED SHIPMENT MARKED COUNTRY'S ADOPTION OF INDEPENDENT FOREIGN POLICY. MARCOS CONTENDED THAT SINCE HE HAD BECOME PRESIDENT HE HAD RE-OREINTED PHIL FOREIGN POLICY AND MADE IT MORE "PRAGMATIC, REALISTIC, AND SOPHISTICATED."

3. MARCOS ALSO CLAIMED OIL SHIPMENT WOULD LESSEN THREATS FROM MANY SECTORS INCLUDING MUSLIM SECESSIONIST MOVEMENT IN THE SOUTH AND SUBVERSIVES IN LUZON. DAILY EXPRESS QUOTES MARCOS AS SAYING CHINESE OIL SUPPLIES WILL "UNSHACKLE OUR OPERATIONS IN THE SOUTH" FROM CONSTRAINTS THAT HAVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HAMPERED PROGRESS THERE.

4. IN HER REMARKS, MRS. MARCOS SAID CHINESE OIL SYMBOLIZED PROFOUND CHANGE IN THE PHIL/PRC RELATIONS AND GIVES SUBSTANCE TO NEW FRIENDSHIP. SHE SAID NEW OIL SOURCE GIVES PHILIPPINES ADDITIONAL CUSHION IN CURRENT PHASE OF WORLD OIL CRISIS. NOTING THAT "WE STAND ON THE THRESHOLD OF NORMALIZING OUR RELATIONS WITH THE PRC" MRS. MARCOS CLAIMED (IN AN EXCESS

OF RHETORICAL LICENSE) THAT CULTURAL AND TRADE CONTACTS BETWEEN COUNTRIES HAD NOT CHANGED." HISTORICALLY, WE HAVE BEEN FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS. NOW WE CAN MOVE FORWARD AND STRENGTHEN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH UNDERSTANDING AND RESPECT."

5. COMMENT: GOP CONTINUES TO SQUEEZE PRC OIL DEAL FOR ALL IT IS WORTH IN PREPARING COUNTRY FOR NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS. PRESIDENT'S EXTEMPORANEOUS REMARKS CHARACTERISTICALLY SEEM MORE RESTAINED THAN THOSE OF FIRST LADY, ALTHOUGH BOTH GIVEN EQUAL COVERAGE IN GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED PRESS. MARCOS' LINKAGE OF CHINESE OIL AND SITUATION IN SOUTH, PARTICULARLY REMARKS ON "UNSHACKLING OUR OPERATIONS THERE" SOMEWHAT INDISCRETE. WE SUSPECT THAT HE EITHER A) ALLOWED ENTHUSIASM TO GET BETTER OF HIM--WHICH UNLIKELY; OR B) SOUGHT TO SCORE POINTS WITH MILITARY WHO FAVOR HARDER LINE IN SOUTH. PRESIDENT UNDOUBTEDLY RECOGNIZES GOP WILL REMAIN ALMOST ENTIRELY DEPENDENT FOR GENERAL RANGE OF OIL PRODUCTS ON ARAB OIL FOR FORESEEABLE FUTURE. THUS HE MUST CONTINUE CONCILIATE ARAB OIL SHIEKS BY CONVINCING THEM HE DESIRES RESOLVE MUSLIM PROBLEM PEACEFULLY.

PRC CONTINUES IN SPOTLIGHT AS FAR AS PHILS PRC/SOVIET NORMALIZATION BALANCING ACT IS CONCERNED. WE WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED, HOWEVER, TO SEE SOME FURTHER MOVEMENT ON SOVIET FRONT BETWEEN NOW AND TIME PHIL ECONOMIC MISSION DEPARTS FOR PEKING.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PETROLEUM, SUPPLIES, RECOGNITION, SOCIAL RECEPTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: shawdg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MANILA12295
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740292-0666
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741047/aaaabntj.tel
Line Count: 141
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: MANILA 12232
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 JUN 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <18 MAR 2003 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENT AND MRS. MARCOS PARTICIPATE IN CELEBRATING PRC OIL DELIVERY
TAGS: PFOR, RP, CH, UR, (MARCOS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005